

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02 EB-08 AID-05 /081 W
-----151055Z 045949 /21

R 150930Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3032
INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL MANDALAY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
DEA BANGKOK
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, IN, EAID, EMIN, BM
SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #6, FEBRUARY 8-15

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1. MADAME CHOU EN-LAI VISITS (CONF)
MME CHOU'S VISIT WAS MARKED BY THE MOST ELABORATE
OUTPOURING OF FELICITATIONS FOR A FOREIGN VISITOR TO
BURMA IN NEARLY TWO DECADES. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS,
NE WIN EMPHASIZED WHAT HE TERMED "TRADITIONAL" CHINA-BURMA
FRIENDSHIP AND THE NEED TO SETTLE ANY PROBLEMS BY DIS-

CUSSIONS. MME CHOU PRAISED BURMA'S NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY ITS OPPOSITION TO "IMPERIALISM AND HEGEMONISM," AND CALLED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE (WHICH WERE JOINTLY INITIATED BY CHINA AND BURMA.

THE BURMESE WERE ATTEMPTING TO RECREATE THE SPIRIT OF THE 1950'S AND EARLY 1960'S ERA OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA, IN THE HOPE THAT THIS MIGHT PROMOTE A REDUCTION IN CHINESE SUPPORT FOR BURMA'S MOST SERIOUS INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM, THE BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY. WHETHER OR NOT THE VISIT CONTRIBUTES TO THE STRENGTHENING OF SINO-BURMESE TIES AND THUS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF CHINA IN ITS PRESUMED RIVALRY WITH THE SOVIETS WILL DEPEND ON THE IMPACT OF THE VISIT ON PRC SUPPORT OF THE BCP. AS OF NOW, NO SUCH IMPACT IS DISCERNIBLE, AND THE VISIT MUST BE RATED A PROBABLE FAILURE, AT LEAST FROM THE BURMESE STANDPOINT. PRC AIMS FOR THE VISIT ARE NOT CLEAR TO US. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT PROVIDED THE CHINESE AN OCCASION FOR SOME RHETORIC PERTINENT TO THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE, MME CHOU DID NOT EVEN INDUCE THE BURMESE TO JOIN HER IN DENOUNCING "HEGEMONISM."

2. SAN YU STRESSES ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN UNION DAY SPEECH (UNCL)

BSPP SECRETARY GENERAL SAN YU DEVOTED A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF HIS UNION DAY ADDRESS TO WHAT HE TERMED "CONSTRUCTING A STRONG SOCIALIST ECONOMIC SYSTEM." THE PARTY SECRETARY SAID CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS WILL BE SOUGHT BOTH WITHIN THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS WITHOUT. FOREIGN AID WILL

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BE ACCEPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICIES LAID DOWN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SOCIALIST ECONOMY. SAN YU SAID WEAKNESSES STILL EXIST WITHIN ALL THREE SECTORS, STATE, COOPERATIVE AND PRIVATE, WHICH HINDER THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF BURMA'S 20-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN. WHILE HE NOTED THE STATE MUST PLAY THE PRIMARY ROLE, THE PARTY SECRETARY GAVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HE SAID "CONDITIONS ARE TO BE CREATED TO ENABLE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO FREELY TAKE UP WHAT CANNOT STILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE STATE AND COOPERATIVE SECTORS. FULL GUARANTEE IS TO BE GIVEN AS PERMITTED BY THE CONSTITUTION TO ENABLE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROCEED ... WITHOUT ANY WORRY WHATSOEVER." AS FOR COOPERATIVES SAN YU NOTED THAT THERE IS ALSO THE "TASK TO BRING PRIVATE ENTERPRISES INTO THE COOPERATIVE FOLD."

COMMENT (LOU): SAN YU WAS OBVIOUSLY PREPARING THE WAY FOR A SYSTEM OF GUARANTEES, E.G. AGAINST NATIONALIZATION, FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH WILL BE RECOMMENDED BY THE UPCOMING THIRD PARTY CONGRESS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE

BURMESE CONSTITUTION PERMITS PRIVATE ENTERPRISES ONLY TO THE EXTENT THEY DO NOT DAMAGE THE SOCIALIST ECONOMY, THESE CAN HARDLY BE UNQUALIFIED GUARANTEES. FURTHER, SAN YU'S REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO BRING PRIVATE ENTERPRISES UNDER THE COOPERATIVE SYSTEM IS UNLIKELY TO GIVE MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT AND INCENTIVE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

3. PYITHU HLUTTAW TO MEET (LOU)

ON FEBRUARY 10 THE COUNCIL OF STATE ANNOUNCED THAT THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE PYITHU HLUTTAW (PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY) WILL MEET BEGINNING MARCH 21. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS SESSION WILL RUBBER-STAMP ANY CHANGES IN ECONOMIC POLITY MADE BY THE THIRD PARTY CONGRESS (WHICH, WHILE STILL NOT ANNOUNCED, IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 20 OR 21).

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4. UNIVERSITY HOLDS STUDENT FAIR (LOU)

ON THE EVE OF THE THIRD PARTY CONGRESS THE GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATED A SHOW OF CONFIDENCE IN THE STUDENT SITUATION BY PERMITTING THE FIRST STUDENT FAIR IN YEARS TO BE HELD ON THE RANGOON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ON FEBRUARY 5. THE

STUDENT FAIR IS A BIG EVENT AND THE CAMPUS WAS PACKED WITH STUDENTS, BUT THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS. IT COULD HAVE BEEN A CASE OF TESTING OF THE WATER, BUT IT COULD JUST AS WELL REFLECT GUB CONFIDENCE THAT THE STUDENTS ARE WELL ENOUGH UNDER CONTROL SO THAT POLITICAL MANIFESTATIONS ARE UNLIKELY.

5. COMMENT ON INDIAN STATE VISIT CANCELLATION (LOU)

OBSERVERS HERE SEE THE CANCELLATION OF THE INDIAN
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STATE VISIT DUE TO THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT AHMED AS A FORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCE FOR BURMA-INDIA RELATIONS. THE GUB HAD MADE MUCH LESS ELABORATE PLANS TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT AHMED THAN THE OVERWHELMING OUTPOURING OF FELICITATIONS AND SOCIALIST POMP ARRANGED FOR THE "GOODWILL" VISIT OF MME CHOU EN-LAI, AND COMPARISON BETWEEN THE TWO VISITS WOULD HAVE BEEN BOTH INEVITABLE AND UNFLATTERING FOR THE INDIANS.

6. CHINESE JOURNALISTS LEAVE FOR HOME (UNCL)

A TEN-MEMBER CHINESE JOURNALIST DELEGATION HEADED BY THE CHIEF EDITOR OF THE HSINHUA DAILY ENDED AN ELEVEN-DAY VISIT TO BURMA. THE VISITORS WERE ON A TOUR OF INDIAN AND BANGLADESH AS WELL AS BURMA. WHILE IN BURMA, THEY WERE GIVEN SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN USUAL TREATMENT, AS U LWIN, INFORMATION MINISTER, GATHERED ALL HIS TOP OFFICIALS AND NEWSPAPER EDITORS TO MEET WITH THE DELEGATION ON THE FIRST DAY. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE DELEGATION VISITED NEWSPAPERS AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN RANGOON, MANDALAY, AND OTHER CITIES AROUND BURMA. ALTHOUGH THE JOURNALISTS WERE IN BURMA DURING THE SAME TIME AS MME CHOU EN-LAI, THE TWO VISITS DID NOT SEEM TO BE STRUCTURALLY RELATED.

COMMENT: THE VISIT SEEMED TO BE PART OF A PATTERN OF CHINESE ATTENTION TO BURMA STARTING WITH A MAJOR ARTS EXHIBIT AND CONCLUDING WITH MME CHOU AND THE JOURNALISTS.

7. GEM EMPORIUM HAS RECORD SALES (UNCL)

BURMA'S ANNUAL GEMS, JADE AND PEARL EMPORIUM CLOSED FEBRUARY 9 AFTER RECORDING SALES OF \$5,149,512, THE LARGEST EARNINGS IN THE 14-YEAR HISTORY OF THE EMPORIUM. LAST YEAR SALES TOTALED \$3.8 MILLION, AND THE HIGHEST RECEIPTS RECORDED PRIOR TO THIS YEAR WERE \$4.4 MILLION IN 1974. GEM SALES (BURMA'S FAMED RUBIES AND SAPPHIRES) AMOUNTED TO LESS THAN \$150,000. BUYERS COMPLAINED THAT THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THESE STONES ARE DECREASING
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WITH EACH EMPORIUM. HOWEVER, PEARLS EARNED A RECORD
\$2.9 MILLION AS DEALERS WERE CONCERNED WITH A WORLD-WIDE
SHORTAGE OF THE ARTICLE AND BID UP PRICES.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RANGOO00463
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-0459
Format: TEL
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjny.tel
Line Count: 231
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 833b4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3318822
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WEEKA #6, FEBRUARY 8-15 CONTENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EAID, EMIN, CH, IN, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/833b4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009